

Butte County Projection Highlights

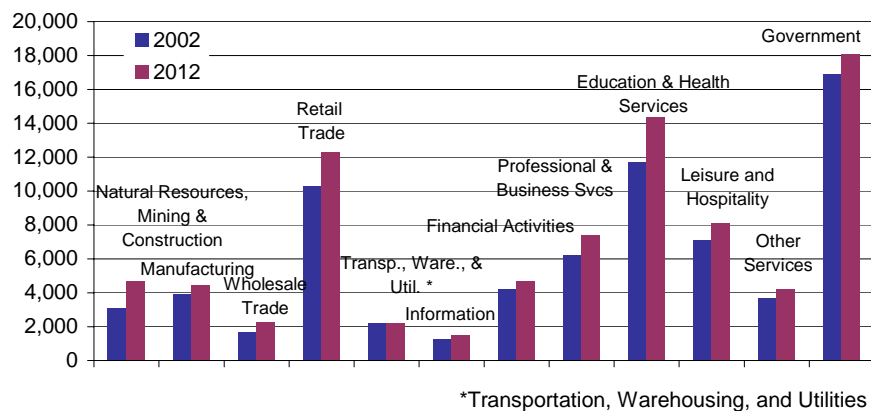
Industry

Nonfarm wage and salary employment in Butte County is expected to grow 1.7 percent annually between 2002 and 2012. This is slightly less than the 1.8 percent forecasted for California as a whole for the same period. This growth will add 12,200 new jobs and bring the employment of Butte County to 84,400 by 2012.

Almost 80 percent of all new nonfarm wage and salary jobs are forecasted to occur in Education & Health Services (22%), Retail Trade (16%), Construction (13%), Professional & Business Services (10%), Government (10%) and Leisure and Hospitality (8%).

Natural Resources, Mining and Construction, the fastest growing major industry sector, is projected to grow at an annual rate of slightly over five percent. Wholesale Trade is forecasted to grow almost 4 percent annually. Education & Health Services is also expected to grow over 2 percent per year between 2002 and 2012. General Merchandise Stores (3.5% per year) and Food Manufacturing and Beverage and Tobacco (2.5% per year) are the fastest growing industries in Butte County.

Below is a graph of the estimated 2002 and projected 2012 employment for major industries in Butte County.



Occupations

Occupational projections for the period 2002-2012 forecast:

- About 12,200 new jobs from industry growth,
- About 17,700 job openings from Net Replacements,
- A combined total of almost 29,900 job openings.

The 50 occupations with the most job openings are expected to generate 17,000 total job openings, almost 57 percent of all job openings in Butte County during the 2002-2012 period. At the top of the list are various entry-level occupations such as Retail Salespersons, Cashiers, and Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, which pay less than \$9 per hour. Also in the top 50 are higher-skilled occupations requiring an associate degree or higher, including Registered Nurses, General Managers, and Elementary School Teachers.

The 50 fastest growing occupations are all expected to grow at 2 percent or more annually. Seven out of the top ten fastest growing occupations are construction related. As a result of the fast growing construction sector, there are a number of construction-related occupations on the list. These occupations require moderate to long-term training and pay \$12-\$25 per hour. Health care occupations are also an area of rapid growth in the county. Health care occupations in the top 50 range from Home Health Aides (\$8 per hour) to Pharmacists at over \$50 per hour.

